

**VIRGINIA RECYCLING MARKETS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
**March 27, 2007**



**10:00 AM to 12:00 P M**  
**DEQ Piedmont Regional Office**  
**Glen Allen, VA**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Tom Smith, RMDC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. and welcomed the members of the Virginia Recycling Markets Development Council and members of the public to the meeting. He asked that the members identify themselves and noted that several would be arriving late due to traffic problems in northern Virginia. Those who were present for some or all of the meeting are noted below:

<b>RMDC</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Absent RMDC</b>	
Philip Abraham,	Plastics Industry	Michael Benedetto	Paper Industry
Sean Kumar	Public At Large	John Kline	Tires
Tom Smith	VACO	Georgiana Ball	VDGS
Richard Lerner	Metal Industry	W.A. Dennison Jr.	VML
Michael Ward	Oil Industry	William Vehrs	VDBA
Bernard Harris	Waste Industry	Andrew Bopp	Glass Industry
Robert Broom	Composting Industry	Diane Jones	Rural PDC
Stephen Thompson	Aluminum	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
Chip Goyette	Urban PDC		
William Bailey	VDOT		
Eric Fidler	Electronics		
		<b>Staff</b>	<b>Representing</b>
		Mike Murphy	VDEQ

<b>Visitors</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Ed Hollis	Resource International
Eric Messick	JLARC
Christine McCoy	Virginia Recycling Association

## **2. Determining Quorum**

A quorum for the Virginia RMDC has been established as a simple majority of the appointed members to the Council. The Council is fully represented by 20 appointed members and 19 were appointed as of the date of this meeting. A minimum of one over 50% of members must be present to establish a quorum. A total of 8 appointed members were in attendance at the start of the meeting. Chairman Smith deferred determination of a quorum until later in the meeting.

## **3. Approval of Agenda**

The Chair asked the committee members to review the meeting agenda. No objections were raised so the proposed agenda was accepted.

## **4. Old Business**

### Legislative Report

Chairman Smith called on Mike Murphy, DEQ staff, to review the legislation from the 2007 session with recycling impacts. Mr. Murphy noted the study (SJR 361) to be conducted by JLARC (Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee), to be covered in more detail later in the meeting. He then distributed a handout which listed the following bills and resolutions. With each, he gave a brief explanation of the impact:

SJR 361 Waste minimization, re-use recycling, JLARC to study  
HB 3044 Extends sunset for tax credit on recycling machinery and equipment  
HB 1689 Repeals obsolete provisions of solid waste laws  
HB 1715 Increases fine for disposing of garbage in state waters  
HB 1787 Provides civil immunity for certain persons assigned duties at landfills  
HB 3113 and SB 1403 Consolidates DEQ Boards (requires re-passage in 2008)  
HB 3133 Requires DEQ to develop post-closure guidance for landfills no longer taking waste after October, 1993.  
SB 1140 Establishes certain requirements for purchasers of scrap metal

### Update on Proposed Study:

Mr. Murphy noted the legislative study (SJR 361) that directs JLARC to study waste minimization, recycling and re-use in Virginia. Because the study was introduced and approved since the last meeting of the Council, he noted that some of the planned focus of the group may now be addressed by the study. Chairman Smith remarked that there should be discussion and coordination with JLARC so that the Council does not duplicate work by JLARC and so that JLARC has interaction with the Council. He noted

that he would contact the JLARC Director, Phil Leone, to initiate that discussion. The chairman then called on Eric Messick, principal legislative analyst with JLARC to describe the plans by JLARC. He stated that as there was another study directive for JLARC under work at this time, the waste and recycling study would be started up later this year with a completion date target of November, 2008. General discussion took place between Mr. Messick and Council members and suggestions were made to take a look at other nearby state programs, survey recycling coordinators, contact representatives of the various recycled commodities as well as recycling associations, and take advantage of university research and information. Several major points were noted as worthy of the study focus and they include: What are the hindrances to recycling and how can the state help especially with the supply and market issues? Mr. Broom made points that the problems originate with cheap landfill access and few state dollars dedicated to helping localities achieve the state recycling percentage requirements. Mr. Abraham noted the difficulties with recycling in rural verses urban areas as the volumes needed to adequately supply recycled good markets are much harder to achieve economically in rural zones. The Council agreed it would be best to continue ongoing interaction with JLARC staff over the coming year and during the study. Chairman Smith noted the Solid Waste Management Board is also interested in the focus of the JLARC study and should be involved as well.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

At this point in the meeting, additional member arrived and a quorum was declared. The minutes of the December 5, 2006 meeting of the Council were motioned for approval. Mr. Harris so moved and Mr. Abraham seconded.

Also, Mr. Lerner arrived at the meeting and gave a quick summary of the bill (SB 1140) which was introduced to avoid the potential for scrap metal operators to be subject to “pawn shop” type rules regarding knowledge of sources of scrap materials.

## **6. New Business**

Mike Murphy then distributed handouts on state recycling activity and programs in other states and university contacts. Several Council members expressed that the handout contained a great deal of important and helpful information and especially brought to light the concerns about inadequate funding for the Virginia recycling program compared to many other states. Some general discussion among members took place regarding funding recommendations that JLARC may review, including higher tipping fees. Some reference was made to work on related studies being done at James Madison University and the potential for a presentation of their efforts to the Council. Mr. Abraham noted that how the funding is being applied can be more important than how much funding may be generated. Mr. Goyette suggested that the litter tax funding sources in Virginia might be reconsidered. Additionally, it was suggested that local government's

needs should be surveyed as part of the JLARC study. Mr. Murphy then presented handouts listing the Virginia local government local recycling contacts and coordinators. All of the information provided in the handouts by Mr. Murphy was seen as helpful background information for the JLARC study.

Additional new business brought up by the chairman was the concern about the diminishing glass recycling market and the need to focus on that area. Christine McCoy with the VRA noted that there would be a segment on glass recycling at their upcoming conference in Williamsburg in early May and a tour of the Owens Corning plant. Also mentioned was the fact that a representative of “recycling” in general needs to be appointed as there is a vacancy and there was discussion of Mr. Toby Edwards, President of the VRA group as a potential candidate.

## **7. Focus Issues for 2007**

Chairman Smith then asked the Council to engage in some brainstorming over ideas that will help channel the work of the Council as well as highlight issues for the upcoming JLARC study. He divided the input into two groups based on two major questions and through discussion and deliberation by the Council, the following lists were developed:

### What hinders recycling?

*Inadequate public education funding*  
*Economic competition from landfills (low tipping fees)*  
*Need for enforcement legislation*  
*Rural lack of infrastructure/transportation*  
*Lack of Commonwealth support, political leadership and funding*  
*Inability to franchise (coordinate waste pickup control)*  
*Data capture responsibilities*  
*Little attention to demand side for recycled end products*  
*No steady reliable supply*  
*Language/communication barrier*  
*Lack of competition for processing firms*  
*Lack of public understanding for proper recycling*

### What efforts should the State undertake?

*Attract business*  
*Political leadership*  
*Statewide comprehensive plan*  
*Effective direction for use of funding*  
*Private sector funding/corporate and business involvement and participation*  
*Enforcement, enabling government to enforce law*

## **8. Dates for Future Meetings:**

Chairman Smith asked for some input on the next quarterly meeting date. After some discussion, the next meeting was tentatively set for Thursday June 7 at 11:00, with the location to be determined upon verification. The chairman also indicated he would circulate some proposed dates for future meetings through the end of the year to determine when most members could attend.

## **9. Public Comment:**

Christine McCoy of VRA reminded members of the upcoming VRA conference (Williamsburg May 1-2, 2007) and urged Council members to participate and attend. She also mentioned the Talbot County, Maryland waste to energy facility and suggested the council contact her about further information on that project.

With no further discussion brought forward for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm